

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY
6450 Cecil Ave. St. Louis MO 63105

Mr. Jim Neiswinter
302 Fendale
Franklin Square NY 11010-3408

Nov. 12, 2009

Dear Jim:

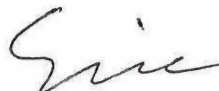
Since talking to you over the telephone after receiving your fascinating letter dated 10/25/08 about our 1868 photographic Levick plates I have been thinking over the importance of your findings.

I have been assessing what publicity your discovery deserves. It was found by you. It was found at ANS. It is important as a Penny-Wise insertion. It is important as numismatic photographic history, etc. The decision on these matters is naturally entirely up to you. It certainly deserves multiple publicity. It may need more research in photographic history but I cannot find any earlier American coin photographs. I will be glad to try to help in any way we could. A few years ago I tried to help a photography historian about some 19th century cent tokens issued by daguerreotype makers and will try to look this up if needed.

The ball is in your court as to your beloved 1793 US cent history.

My best to you.

Eric

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eric", written in dark ink.



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

RE: 939 woodycrest, bronx, n.y.

1 message

Jim Neiswinter <[REDACTED]> Wed, Sep 8, 2010 at 8:12 PM
To: dave <[REDACTED]> chuck <[REDACTED]> Boka <[REDACTED]>
dan trollan <[REDACTED]> Bob Grellman <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED] cvm <[REDACTED]> tom turrisini <[REDACTED]> "H.
Craig Hamling" <[REDACTED]>
brad k <[REDACTED]> mike lawerence <[REDACTED]> mark b <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED] scott r <[REDACTED]>

dave,

did you know homer well?

Jim

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 939 woodycrest, bronx, n.y.
Date: Wed, 8 Sep 2010 19:27:58 -0400

Nice pix. I think I see Homer in the third row of seats just to the left of the dugout. He is shading his eyes with a copy of EAC. Pic of side of his bldg w blank wall suggests it was built up to the property line and not windowed, in case another building was to be plastered right next door.

Thanks.

Dave B

From: Jim Neiswinter [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, September 08, 2010 6:43 PM
To: [REDACTED] chuck; Boka; dan trollan; [REDACTED] Bob Grellman;
[REDACTED] cvm; tom turrisini; H. Craig Hamling; dave;
[REDACTED] brad k; mike lawerence;
[REDACTED] mark b; [REDACTED] scott r; [REDACTED]
Subject: 939 woodycrest, bronx, n.y.

Homer Downing's residence in the Bronx. Two blocks from the new Yankee Stadium. The first language in this area is now Spanish. A lot different 60 years ago.

Yankee's won 3-2 on a walkoff home run by Nick Swisher.

Jim

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Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

1793 S15

4 messages

Jim Neiswinter <[REDACTED]>

Sat, Jun 4, 2011 at 9:21 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Hi Eric,

Happy Belated Birthday,

I'm doing a monograph on the Sheldon 15. There are 12 known examples, and with the help of Del Bland I'm working on the pedigrees. Del said that Virgil Brand owned a G4 example of this variety that he got when he acquired the Carl Wurtzbach collection in 1919. When the collection was split up between Armin and Horace in 1934, Armin got the Wurtzbach copper coins. Armin had B. G. Johnson sell these coins.

I have the Martin Logies book on the 1794 Silver Dollars. On page 33 Logies wrote that a 1794 dollar was also owned by Brand. He writes that you served as the estate administrator and collection appraiser. "The 1794 dollar appears on Page #25 of Newman's private appraisal report." I got out my Bowers book on Virgil Brand and your name was only mentioned twice, and there is nothing about you being an administrator or writing an appraisal report.

I was wondering if you had any information on a 1793 C14K that was in the Wurtzbach/Brand collection that I could use. Thanks.

Jim

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
To: [REDACTED]

Sat, Jun 4, 2011 at 2:39 PM

Dear Jim:

I wish to thank you for the centennial greetings. I am so lucky to be still in action and believe numismatics is the medicine which keeps me going.

As to your question about Horace Brand's U. S. one cent Sheldon 15 the facts I know are as follows:

B. G. Johnson was the appraiser (Perhaps there were others) for the Horace Brand coins and they were placed in cigar or other boxes. Each coin was individually valued and enveloped but sometimes they were in groups. Two boxes full of equal appraised value were placed in front of Armin and Jacques ? and marked heads or tails. A coin was tossed by one or the other and called heads or tails and that determined who got it which box. Jacques sometimes complained about the box he got and insisted that the coin be tossed again or that they switch boxes to keep piece. Sometimes the content of boxes differed in the countries or types of coins. Armin did not care which boxes he got because he was dealing with an eccentric brother who had divorced wives seeking alimony payments.

Armin's boxes were separated and received by him and sent to Johnson in St. Louis for sale. A list of the coins with a serial number, description, and value was prepared in Chicago from the envelope data I think but both Armin and Johnson had such lists for use in selling items by Johnson. Johnson was to receive 10% of sales and to be remitted at reasonable intervals.. I have some of these in my archives

I think I also have the invoices to Johnson's customers from 1940 to 1947 which include Johnson's own inventory items, Green Estate items jointly owned by Johnson and me. and Armin's items. When Johnson died in 1947 I returned all of the Armin coins to Chicago but Armin had died and some went to his successors. George Gessler (of St. Louis long deceased) and I were Johnson's Executors and after an enormous amount of work straightened things out with Mary Cruzan who was raised as Johnson's daughter and who was a close friend of mine and who died decades ago.

As you can see from the above I had nothing to do with determining numismatic values at any time. I was never involved with the Brand estate except as above. What did Logies write about me? What is the record he is talking about?

As to my 1794 US Dollar I think it came from the Green Estate which I bought with Johnson in about 1941-42. I do not know what condition it is actually in as Perkins told me that is far superior to what it was thought to be when my deceased California friend (name temporarily forgotten) may have thought.

My best to you and I hope you are satisfied with the above explanations. It would be a super mess and time killer for me to do more unless it is super critical.

Eric

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

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Jim Neiswinter <

Sat, Jun 4, 2011 at 3:37 PM

To:

Eric,

I've scanned page 33 of the Logies book so you can see what he wrote about you. It sounds like what he wrote is not true. Is Jacques another Brand brother? I thought the coins were split between Armin and Horace.

I went to the ANS a couple of weeks ago and went through some George Clapp letters. I've attached 2 of them - about the Clapp purchase of 3 1793 NCs that came from the Hall/Brand collections. Hope you find them as interesting as I did.

You mention Mary Cruzan. Two months ago I purchased a very nice 1793 S5 from Chris McCawley. I asked him about the pedigree. He told me it started with B. G. Johnson and then went to Mary Cruzan. This was the first time I ever heard her name.

Thanks for your quick response.

Jim

From:

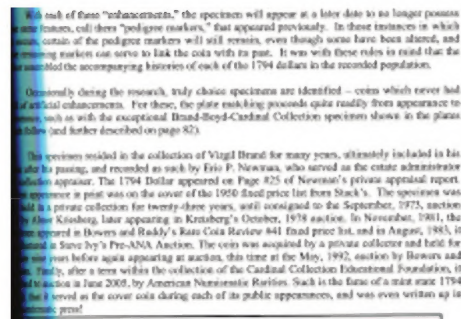
Date: Sat, 4 Jun 2011 14:39:47 -0400

Subject: Re: 1793 S15

To:

[Quoted text hidden]

3 attachments



Logies 1794 \$ book.jpg
880K

Clapp_No 342.jpg
1089K



noe_johnson 342.jpg
691K



IO: [REDACTED] < [REDACTED] Sat, Jun 4, 2011 at 5:36 PM

Dear Jim:
I was wrong about the name Jacques. Horace is whom I meant.

As to Mary Cruzan her coin holdings were auctioned by a regular auction house and perhaps after her death . The proceeds of her estate went to a religious institution out west. I would have to look this up which is deep in my archives. I will get to your Logies summary matter shortly. Eric

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]
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GEO. H. CLAPP
WOODLAND ROAD, EDGEWORTH
SEWICKLEY, PA.

March 24, 1942.

Sydney P. Noe, Secretary,
Am. Numismatic Society.
New York, N.Y.

The "most important event of the Twentieth Century", happened yesterday, three cents 1793, C, 2-C, 9-I and 10-F arrived from Johnson, they are the long-lost Crosby cents, the actual specimens described by him, and with Dr. Hall's original labels.

I have studied them most carefully with the descriptions and the only one figured, the Obv. 2, shows the crack mentioned by Crosby, and faintly shown on his plate, runs through 1 to rim. 9-1 is considerably worn but is much better than "Very poor" as Johnson calls it, all essential details are easily made out. 10-F is about in the same condition as 2-C, just slight signs of circulation, I enclose squeegees of all three so you can see what you got.

The Society already has 5-E so if we can get a 5-D we will have the only complete set of 1793 in existence. I believe that Dr. Hall had the only known specimen so when you write to Johnson ask him about it. In order to bring my 1793's up to "standard" my 1-C and 14-L should be improved although they are much above the average. I have an electrotypè of 5-D so if we cannot get the real thing can still show what it looks like.

I enclose Johnson's bill and my check for \$1200 but if you care to "dicker" with him and can get the price reduced to \$1000 or \$1100 you can add what you save to my fund for future purchases. I will report safe arrival of cents to Johnson.

If you have the catalog of Frossard's 145th sale please let me know what he says about Lot 373. Johnson is wrong as there is nothing in the Winsor sale that agrees with C, 9-I.

Very sincerely yours,

George H. Clapp

*Do you want me to send you these cents or just add to my collection for "The Duration of the War"?
Better check your 1793 to see if it is 5-D or 5-E, my record says "5-E" but I may be mistaken.*

With each of these “enhancements,” the specimen will appear at a later date to no longer possess the same features, call them “pedigree markers,” that appeared previously. In those instances in which it occurs, certain of the pedigree markers will still remain, even though some have been altered, and the remaining markers can serve to link the coin with its past. It was with these rules in mind that the author assembled the accompanying histories of each of the 1794 dollars in the recorded population.

Occasionally during the research, truly choice specimens are identified – coins which never had any of artificial enhancements. For these, the plate matching proceeds quite readily from appearance to appearance, such as with the exceptional Brand-Boyd-Cardinal Collection specimen shown in the plates which follow (and further described on page 82).

This specimen resided in the collection of Virgil Brand for many years, ultimately included in his estate after his passing, and recorded as such by Eric P. Newman, who served as the estate administrator and collection appraiser. The 1794 Dollar appeared on Page #25 of Newman’s private appraisal report. Its first appearance in print was on the cover of the 1950 fixed price list from Stack’s. The specimen was held in a private collection for twenty-three years, until consigned to the September, 1973, auction by Abner Kriesberg, later appearing in Kreisberg’s October, 1978 auction. In November, 1981, the specimen appeared in Bowers and Ruddy’s Rare Coin Review #41 fixed price list, and in August, 1983, it featured in Steve Ivy’s Pre-ANA Auction. The coin was acquired by a private collector and held for over nine years before again appearing at auction, this time at the May, 1992, auction by Bowers and Son. Finally, after a term within the collection of the Cardinal Collection Educational Foundation, it was sold to auction in June 2005, by American Numismatic Rarities. Such is the fame of a mint state 1794 dollar, that it served as the cover coin during each of its public appearances, and was even written up in the numismatic press!



Dealers in
COINS, STAMPS,
PAPER MONEY,
AUTOGRAPHS

ESTABLISHED 1897

St. Louis Stamp & Coin Co.

408 OLIVE STREET

ST. LOUIS, MO.
March 27th, 1942



Dealers in
INDIAN RELICS,
OLD FIREARMS,
CURIOS, ETC

Mr. Sydney P. Noe
American Numismatic Society
Edwy. between 155th and 156th Sts.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Noe:

Replying to your letter of
March 25th. The price made on the three
cents is the best I can do. Dr. Hall had
both Crosby 5-E and 5-D. They are both
sold. His Crosby 14-L is about fine -
\$125.00. His Crosby 1-C is almost uncir-
culated - \$200.00.

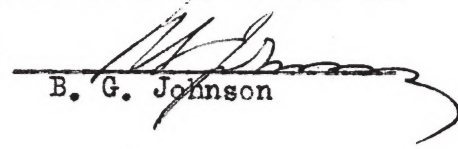
I have all of the Hall Collection
in my possession including such of his Colonials
as I have not sold, also his magnificent collection
of Connecticut Cents, etc. If you will specify
any wants, I will quote you on such as we have.

Very truly yours,

ST. LOUIS STAMP & COIN CO.

BGJ:JL

By


B. G. Johnson

*Have written asking to
see about Cant
GHE*

Revision.

4 messages

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
To: [REDACTED]

Sat, Jun 25, 2011 at 5:29 PM

Dear Jim:

I am grateful for your refreshment of my recollection when I Emailed you on 6/4/11 and will feel better if I make specific corrections.

In line 3 change Horace to Virgil.

In line 4 change Horace to Virgil.

In line 6 change Jacques to Horace

In line 8 change Jacques to Horace

When I wrote that after Johnson died I sent Armin's coins to Chicago I should have said that the unsold coins were sent there which I presume you understood. His estate was paid all moneys due.

As to your one cent research I have sent the list of the Armin Brand US Cents which I recently found in my archives to Tett. He will send them to Bland. Bland asked Tett to urge me to find it. I was lucky but knew it was somewhere in my packing cases.

However I also found the distribution to Mary Cruzan (one half) and to Mary Sheffield (one half) of the Johnson's US cents. Whether this included his coins from the Green coins or all of his coins I have not studied.

My best to you.

Eric

Jim Neiswinter <[REDACTED]>
To: [REDACTED]

Sat, Jun 25, 2011 at 6:45 PM

Eric,


I'm doing a monograph of the S15. I'd love your opinion of what I've done so far. Did you know George Clapp?


Jim

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Sat, 25 Jun 2011 17:29:31 -0400
Subject: Revision.
To: [REDACTED]
[Quoted text hidden]

3 attachments

 **chick or egg1.doc**
311K

 **ANS_S15_11.ppt**
1782K

 **s15-2x_1.doc**

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
To: [REDACTED]

Sat, Jun 25, 2011 at 7:34 PM

Jim: I did not know George Clapp, but had to study what he did when I worked on the recovery of the Sheldon thrfts. I will read any manuscript you want me to read. Eric

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]
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Jim Neiswinter <[REDACTED]>
To: [REDACTED]

Sun, Jun 26, 2011 at 12:44 PM

Eric,

Thanks. What did you think of the first 2 chapters I attached yesterday? I've gotten all the Noyes pictures of the known S15s. I've attached the one that I own.

Jim

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Sat, 25 Jun 2011 19:34:04 -0400
Subject: Re: Revision.
To: [REDACTED]
[Quoted text hidden]



CC 7.doc
533K



Finest known S15

Chicken or the Egg

This is page 32 from Joseph N. T. Levick's Book of Rubbings that describes the four varieties of Liberty Cap cents known in April 1869. It is in the rare book room in the library of the American Numismatic Society. This journal contains pencil rubbings and notes on the 1793 cents that were sent to Levick for his photographic plate that appeared in the April 1869 number of the American Journal of Numismatics.

- Varieties of the
Liberty Cap*
- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| <i>1 obv. Perfect die with the
triangle reverse</i> | <i>(10J - S13)</i> |
| <i>2 obv. Cracked die with the
same reverse</i> | <i>(11J - S14)</i> |
| <i>3 obv. Cracked die with the
same reverse as
preceding two</i> | <i>(12J - S16)</i> |
| <i>4 obv. Only obv. with a
dif rev. or its own
reverse as seen on
the piece</i> | <i>(12K - S15)</i> |
- The only variation to be
observed is that Crisp's
piece has 2 variety of
reverses.*
- Which makes in
all 4 Lib Caps*

I think this proves that Sylvester Crosby discovered both the 12J and 12K. Crosby's die is obverse 12 with two different reverses. Since this is the 32nd of 37 pages in The Book of Rubbings, I think it was written in early 1869.

So which was struck first – the S15 or the S16? Crosby describes both (12J and 12K) in the AJN monograph that accompanied Levick's plate. He writes about an obverse die crack *"a slight crack is visible through the Y of LIBERTY, reaching the forehead, not showing upon the head (in any specimen I have found), but reappearing at the lower lock of hair on the left."* I own the 12K pictured on Levick's plate. This coin does not have the second die break at the lower lock of hair described by Crosby. This means that the 12J had to have the second die break. So why didn't Levick use the obverse of the 12J on his plate? I first thought that it had to be in poorer condition than the 12K. Then I thought about the die cracks. In a low grade coin the die cracks would be hard to see, especially the lower one, if it could be seen at all. So the 12J was probably a higher grade than the 12K. After more thought I realized that Crosby was not the owner of the 12J. In John Haseltine's 1883 sale of Crosby's collection there were fifteen different varieties of 1793 cents. The only collectable variety he did not have was the 12J (S16). I now think that the owner of the 12J was probably from the Boston area (as was Crosby), but he did not want to send the coin to New York so it could be included on Levick's plate. See APPENDIX A 4.

At the end of the monograph Levick lists the Proprietors of the Cents Represented in the Plate. Crosby is listed as the owner of the 12 and K. Levick then writes: *"Mr. Wm. S. Appleton's absence in Europe prevented us from being assisted by him, and the opportunity to see his pieces."* Appleton was from Boston and was one of founding members of the Boston Numismatic Society in February 1860. Was he the owner of the discovery 12J? It was definitely not Mortimer Mackenzie, as it is written in Breen's Encyclopedia of Early U. S. Cents. Mackenzie owned six 1793 cents and they were all pictured on Levick's Plate, but his only Liberty Cap was a 10J (S13).

I think Breen had the right idea about the emission sequence of these two varieties. He writes about Breen 22 (S15): *"Probably 300 to 400 were struck between the earliest and latest of number 19 (S16)."* So Breen believes that some S16s were struck first, then the S15s, and then the rest of the S16s. This makes sense. My S15 has the first die crack through the Y of LIBERTY, but not the second one. My S16 is VG8 (CC4) and I can barely make out the first die crack and there is no second one, so I believe my S16 was struck before my S15. The two best S16s both exhibit strong upper and lower cracks, while the two finest S15s, the F15 in the ANS collection and the F12 owned by Mike Lawrence, have the upper cracks, but there is only a bulge from the lower curl to the rim.

All twelve S15s have an obverse characteristic that does not appear on any S16 obverse. The top portion of the L of LIBERTY is missing. It's apparent that something filled this portion of the obverse die. If Breen's theory is correct this filling occurred after some S16s were struck and before the obverse die was used with the K reverse. Whatever filled the top half of the L had to have been removed before the remaining S16s were struck, since none of the S16s exhibit this characteristic.

At the 2009 EAC convention in Cincinnati I put on an exhibit of the S15. I was able to show eight of the twelve known S15s with the help of seven friends that have this variety. None of these eight cents have the second die crack.



Owners of the S15s exhibited at the 2009 EAC convention.
(photo courtesy of Al Boka)

REVIEW OF
PRINCIPAL S15 LITERATURE

1869 Crosby – C12K

1879 Frossard – F13 2nd Reverse

1890 Doughty – D17

1897 Crosby – C14K

1913 McGirk – 3D

1949 Sheldon – S15

1958 Sheldon – S15

2000 Breen – B22

2006 Noyes – S15

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS

AND

Bulletin of the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society.

VOL. III.

NEW YORK, APRIL, 1869.

No. 12.

THE UNITED STATES CENTS OF 1793.

BY S. S. CROSBY, BOSTON, MASS.

Obv. 12 (with Revs. J and K). Another variety of No. 10, in which a slight crack is visible through the Y of LIBERTY, reaching the forehead, not showing on the head (in any specimen I have found), but reappearing at the lower lock of hair on the left. This die is very much like No. 11, but a slight difference may be found in the relative positions of the letters.

Rev. K (for Obv. 12) Very much like J, but the two lower leaves at the left single, those at the right being double, as in that, though broader. All the leaves more widely spread and a little larger; one nearly touching the M of America, and the one at the top of the left branch pointing between the two upper ones at the right. The left hand stem points to the right of the U of United. The one at the right, which forms a sort of loop with the ribbon end, before crossing (where J forms a triangle), points directly at the last limb of the last A of America; both ends of the ribbon pass through the knot, the left end reaching no lower than the line in the fraction, the other reaching opposite the middle of the ciphers, and more pointed at its end. The figures of the fraction are a very little larger than J. This Cent, the only one we find of the variety, being much worn, so a full description cannot be given of it as most of the others; but we hope that a fine specimen of it, as well as of No. 6, may be brought to light, and that the fortunate owner will favor us with an opportunity to complete the description, and improve, or as we might say, perfect our Plate.

Joseph N. T. Leveck was the driving force behind this monograph. He wanted the photograph and descriptions of the 1793 cents to be used by future cataloguers. He wanted each variety to be known by a certain title (number or letter) so that all collectors could recognize it at once. I believe Sylvester Crosby was chosen to write the descriptions because of his well-known interest in 1793 cents and his friends in the Boston Numismatic Society. Crosby used Augustine Shurtleff's article "About Cents" published on the front page of the March 1, 1859 edition of the Boston Evening Transcript, as his starting point for this monograph. Crosby discovered both the 12J (S16) and 12K (S15) several years after this article came out. He owned the 12K. See APPENDIX A 1-3. George Clapp thought this plate to be far superior to Crosby's three plates in the 1897 monograph. See APPENDIX D 2,4.

TYPES AND VARIETIES OF THE U. S. CENT, 1793.



COMPILED BY
JOSEPH N. T. REYNOLDS.

Pub. 1869 by the Am. Numismatic & Archaeological Soc. New York.

MONOGRAPH

OF

United States Cents and Half Cents

ISSUED BETWEEN THE YEARS 1793 AND 1857

By ED. FROSSARD.

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR
IRVINGTON, N. Y.
1879

No. 13. A slight crack is visible through the Y of the legend LIBERTY, reaching the forehead, not showing upon the head, but reappearing at the lower lock of hair on the left. (Not illustrated.)

2d Reverse: The leaves spread more widely, one of them nearly touching M in AMERICA. The left branch has five berries; near C of CENT is a short stem without a berry; the right branch has seven berries. (Not illustrated.)

Frossard was the second numismatist (after Levick) to use photography for variety identification. Plate I of the IX plates contained the 1793s. He did not have either Crosby's obverse or reverse for illustration. The description of the obverse came right from Crosby's monograph. Frossard used Crosby's description of the finest K reverse to count the berries on both branches of the wreath. Sylvester Crosby announced his discovery of this cent (finest known S12) in the October 1869 issue of the AJN:

"I have been fortunate enough to discover a fine impression of Reverse K of the cents of 1793, but combined with obverse 10, of plate in April No. of the JOURNAL, thus giving us another variety in class 3 cents of that year. This cent owned by Wm. Fewsmith of Camden, New Jersey, who has kindly loaned it to me for purposes of description and illustration." See APPENDIX B 1.

Crosby wrote a detailed description of the reverse that appeared in the April 1870 issue of the AJN. Frossard did not go into as much detail and did not get the cent for illustration. In the 1869 monograph Crosby wrote that his 12K that appeared on Levick's plate was much worn, so a full description could not be given. Only four berries can be seen on this cent. John Haseltine used Frossard's numbers to describe the 1793s in Crosby's collection that was sold in June 1883. I've always wondered what Crosby thought about this. See APPENDIX A 4.

PLATE I



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

LIBERTY BELL

THE
CENTS OF THE UNITED STATES

BY
FRANCIS WORCESTER DOUGHTY

NEW YORK:
SCOTT STAMP AND COIN CO., L'D.
12 East 23rd Street.
1890.

No. 17. – Obv. Head of Liberty to right. Behind the head, on the left, is a short staff supporting a Liberty Cap. Above the head, LIBERTY In ex., 1793 In general design this obverse is the same as No. 15. Its differing particulars are as follows: A slight crack in the die shows as a line extending from the dotted border to the forehead, touching the right side of the letter Y of the word LIBERTY which is well removed from the border, as in No. 15; the letter E of LIBERTY is on a line with its fellows.

Rev. – Rev. K. – This reverse differs from Rev. J. (the illustration) in the following particulars: Has only one leaf opposite the O in OF; tip of leaf is to the right, above the base of T of CENT; the end of the ribbon the right extends below the dividing line of the fraction; a leaf opposite the right foot of the letter M of AMERICA.

In the Introductory of this book, Doughty writes that his work was modeled after the system adopted in the description of U. S. cents serialized in the J. W. Scott's Coin Collectors Journal from 1879 to 1883. That work has been attributed to David Proskey. It was revised anonymously starting in the May 1887 Journal and it continued until December 1888 when Scott folded the Journal. Walter Breen writes in his Encyclopedia of Early U. S. Cents that F. W. Doughty wrote this revision and then published The Cents of the United States as a book in 1890 to complete the series after the Journal folded. Doughty used line drawings (apparently Scott did not want to pay for photography) to illustrate the varieties. He did not have an Obv. 17 or Rev. K to create these particular illustrations. Doughty is first to note that the reverse has only one leaf opposite the O in OF, but he did not count either the berries, leaves or border beads.



AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS

VOL. XXXI.

BOSTON, JANUARY, 1897.

No. 3.

THE CENTS OF 1793.

BY S. S. CROSBY.

Obverse 14, with reverses K and L. This very rare die is also cracked, but not as conspicuously as is No. 13; the crack is faintly seen from a bead of the border, across the right top of Y to forehead, and again from the lower lock of hair to the border. The lower lock ends in a heavier, hook-like curl, and those above it are more sharply pointed. About one-half millimeter of the staff shows behind the head, as in No. 13, but the lower end is in higher relief, more tapering toward the throat, nearly as far from the bust as in that, and points directly at a bead of the border, which contains ninety-seven beads. A minute point of difference in these dies may be found in the relative position of the letter I and the beads above it: In No. 12, two beads are directly over it (I); in 13, one is more nearly central above, and one over the left part of it (I), and in 14, one is central above it (I). This is the rarest die of this class, and I can recall but two impressions from it.

Reverse K, with obverses 12 and 14. The left branch has fourteen leaves, eight in pairs and six single, with five olives, one of which is just at the left of the bow; the right olive branch has sixteen leaves, fourteen in pairs and two single, and seven olives; the lower two leaves at the left of the knot are broad and single, and the upper leaf of the left branch points between two of the right; one leaf on the right comes very close to the right foot of the letter M. The stem at the left passes in front of the ribbon end, and points just to the right of U; that at the right passes from the knot nearly parallel with, and close to the ribbon, forming a narrow loop, then behind it, pointing at the right foot of A. Both of the ribbon ends pass through the knot, the left end not falling below the regula, the right end falling to the middle of the ciphers, and more sharply pointed. The regula rests upon the figure I, and the border is of eighty-five beads.

The Cents of 1793 was serialized in the AJN starting in October 1896 and ending in the July 1897 issue with the Half Cents of 1793. Sylvester Crosby was able to go into more detail in his description of this variety because he now owned the Fewsmith coin, which has the finest K reverse. He counted both the berries (he called them olives) and the leaves on the wreath, and was the first to count the border beads. Almost all of the cents plated in this monograph belonged to Crosby's friend Dr. Thomas Hall. Hall owned every variety of 1793 (including all five NCs known at that time) except for the 14K. Since Crosby's 14K was sold with his collection in 1883, he had to improvise on his plate of Liberty Cap Cents. Hall owned what at that time was the finest known 14L, while Crosby owned the finest known 12K. So Crosby was able to represent the 14K by drawing a line from obverse of the 14L to the reverse of the 12K. In late 1897, Crosby published 200 copies of The United States Coinage of 1793. – Cents and Half Cents. This book is a reprint of his AJN articles. George Clapp called the plates in this monograph "atrocious". He couldn't understand why they were not done like Levick's 1869 AJN plate. See APPENDIX D 3



PLATE III
THE CENTS AND HALF-CENTS OF 1793.
With the Smith Counterfeits.

United States Cents and Die Varieties 1793-1857

CHARLES E. MCGIRK, A. M., M. D., Phillipsburg, Pa.

Many elaborate and complicated descriptions have been written on the still most popular coin of the United States. The only excuse therefore for the writing of this series of descriptions of the United States cent is to condense and simplify what has been written, adding new data to the earlier dates, 1793-1814, and compiling an entire new list of the varieties from 1816 to 1857, arranging all in the form of an up-to-date filing system.

Third or Liberty Cap type. The obverse now consists of a head of Liberty facing right, with a cap back of the head supported by a pole, the pole appearing above and parallel to the bust. The word liberty and the date are in the same positions as in the types one and two. The reverse differs from type two in that the leaves are larger, there are no longer blossoms to be found and the strings of berries are replaced by single berries placed close to the wreath. The wreath is tied with a double bow knot. There are 5 varieties of this type.

McGirk named this variety 3D because it is the fourth variety of the third type of 1793 cents. United States Cents and Die Varieties 1793-1857 was serialized in the Numismatist from April 1913 to December 1914. McGirk was the only chronicler of cents that did not illustrate the varieties. His idea of condensation and simplification was to make obverse and reverse tables of the three types of 1793 cents. The Liberty Cap obverse table measured the differences in the positions of LIBERTY, the DATE, and the LOWEST CURL END (a ruler was essential). The reverse table counted the number of berries and leaves on the Wreath. McGirk also describes the OBVERSE OR REVERSE CRACKS IN DIE on the reverse table: (3D) Faint crack border Y to forehead, another curl-border. McGirk's work never caught on, and was not even mentioned by Sheldon in his Review of the Principal Cent Literature in Early American Cents.

EARLY AMERICAN CENTS

1793 - 1814

WILLIAM H. SHELDON, M. D.
1949

15 14-K

The Dotted I
HIGH CENTER REVERSE

Obverse 14. On this die, *a bead perfectly dots the I of LIBERTY (I) and this is the best distinguishing characteristic.* Less than 0.5 mm. Of the staff or pole, is visible between the head and the cap, and on anything short of a very fine specimen the staff is not seen on this point at all. The end of the staff is long, points directly at a bead, and is distant from the bust a little more than its own thickness. *The lowest lock of hair has a short, heavy hook at the end,* as contrasted with its delicate termination on the other two obverses. A faint crack is nearly always seen, from a bead at the border, across the right top of Y to the forehead, and sometimes (faintly) from the lower lock of hair to the border. The border contains ninety-seven beads, as compared with ninety-five on the other two obverses.

Reverse K. (as described under the S12) This reverse can be recognized at a glance, as *the central part is raised or elevated*, so that ONE CENT, a considerable part of the left wreath, and some of the inner leaves of the right wreath are always weak. If the coin is a little worn, these parts in many instances entirely gone. *A leaf terminates 0.5 mm. From the right foot of the M, and points directly at the center of the bottom of that letter.* On the L reverse this leaf is distant from the M, is almost parallel to that letter, and points to the bottom of the adjacent A. The two lower leaves on the left of the knot are broad and single, the lower one arising directly from the ribbon without a stem. Under the O in OF there is a single leaf. The border has eighty-five beads.

Die break variations. *None except as noted. It is probable that this obverse die was cracked in the same manner as obverse 13, although far less conspicuously, and on some of the well-worn 14's the crack can be scarcely made out.*

R-8. Basal value \$35. I have seen only five examples, and two of those are in the ANS collection. No others have been reported, so far as I know. Probably only three collectable specimens exist. The best 14-K, about VF-20, was bought for the ANS in 1936 from a Pittsburgh collector. Its earlier history is unknown, or has been lost. (There is no 14-K on the Crosby plate. There obverse 14 is illustrated from the 14-L now in the ANS collection, and reverse K from the 12-K now owned by ANS.) The second best 14-K, F-12 I can now trace only from the Wilharm sale, in 1921. It has since been in the Hines Collection and was last sold in 1944 for \$350. The third best of this variety, I believe, would be the Dr. French coin, VG-7, Lot 17 in the French catalogue and there priced at \$225, not far from its actual value. This is a coin of which Dr. French was very fond, and some of the old collectors have seen it many times. The fourth 14-K that I have seen is now owned by a Cincinnati collector and is about G-6. Finally, there is the coin known as

the “original” Crosby specimen. This was described and illustrated by Crosby and Levick in 1869 (see p. 19) before a better one was known. This coin, condition 4, was bought for the ANS about 1920 and is still in the ANS collection. The 14-K, although an extreme rarity, is of just sufficient availability (three) to be a collector’s item, and I have assigned to it the highest basal value in the collectible cent series. **CONDITION CENSUS, 20-7.**

Sheldon is the first to include pedigree information with the descriptions of the varieties. Carl Wurtzbach bought the Hines 14K in for \$350 in 1944. Sheldon then acquired it from him. The VG7 French coin and the G6 coin owned by a Cincinnati collector that Sheldon writes about is the same coin. The Cincinnati collector was Charles M. Williams. Del Bland found a note from Homer Downing that said Williams owned this 14K and it was sold privately to Floyd Starr, by Abe Kosoff’s Numismatic Gallery, before the Williams collection was sold in November 1950. Also, in the description of the S15 in the October 1953 New Netherlands sale (lot 193), John Ford writes: “The possibility exists that the example owned by Dr. French and the Williams piece (referred to by Dr. Sheldon as the one owned by a Cincinnati collector) are the same coin.” See APPENDIX B. Sheldon thought very highly of Crosby’s 1897 monograph. He did not copy Crosby word for word, but his only new contribution was to compare the 14 obverse with the other two Liberty Cap obverses. However, Sheldon did have several original (good and bad) ideas:

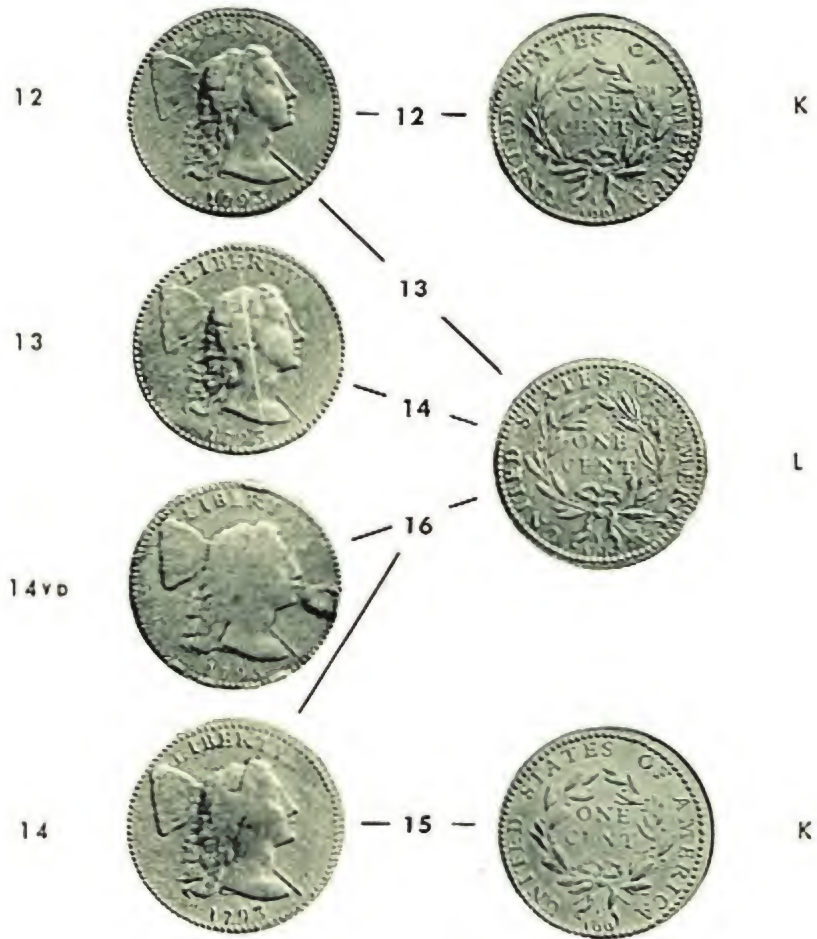
QUANITATIVE SCALE FOR CONDITION: Sheldon was the first to use a numeric grading scale. From Basal 1, described as being identifiable and unmutilated, to Mint as State 70, which is perfect Mint State.

BASAL VALUE: The Basal value was Sheldon’s formula for putting a value on each cent. He assigned a dollar value to each variety in the lowest condition – Basal 1. He then used his 70-point scale of condition to come up with his idea of what should be the value of an individual cent. Value equals condition times Basal value. To use the Dr. French S15 as an example, multiply the grade 7 by the Basal value of \$35 and get \$245. As Sheldon wrote: “Lot 17 in the French catalogue and there priced at \$225, not far from its actual value.” The French sale was in 1929, so twenty years later Sheldon believes this cent should be valued at \$245. This same cent sold for \$52,900 in the 2009 Dan Holmes sale. According to Sheldon’s 1949 formula the S15 would have a Basal value of over \$7500 today.

CONDITION CENSUS: 20 is Sheldon’s grade of finest known of this variety, while the 7 is the average grade of the next finest five known - four in the case of the S15.

NONCOLLECTABLE: Sheldon’s definition of an NC: That the writer and his collaborators did not know of the existence of as many as three examples of the variety in numismatic circulation, i.e. in collector’s hands. A noncollectable variety was one of which no more than two examples were available to collectors. In 1949 Sheldon believed there were five examples of the S15. If he didn’t make the mistake of thinking the French and Williams cent were two different coins, he would have had to designate this variety Non-Collectable because two of the other four he knew about were in the ANS collection. This left only two in numismatic circulation - not enough to have a Sheldon number. If this variety was labeled an NC, would it be as popular? If the S79 in the Dan Holmes sale did not have a Sheldon number would it have sold for more than \$1 million?

1 7 9 3



PENNY WHIMSY

A Revision of EARLY AMERICAN CENTS 1793 - 1814

WILLIAM H. SHELDON
1958

15 14·K

The Dotted I
HIGH CENTER REVERSE

The Obverse, Reverse, and Die break variation descriptions remain the same.

R-8. Basal \$50. 20-7 (20-15-7-4-4). The aristocrat of the Liberty Cap cents, and therefore an aristocrat of aristocrats among the Large Cents. Finest known is the VF-20 Geis-Clapp piece, now in the ANS museum. Next is the Wilharm-Hines coin, F-15. Third finest is the Dr. French piece, VG-7, now in a Philadelphia collection. A 14-K in condition 4 was sold in an Eastern auction in 1953, and ANS has a second example of the variety, also condition 4. This last is the original Levick-Crosby coin. Rumors of another 14-K circulate perennially. These lead usually to an examination of electrotypes or of badly worn 12-K's (of which there are three or four so far gone as to be almost unattributable). Perhaps it is dangerous to assign so high a Basal value as \$50 to a cent. If a 60-coin should turn up it would have a book rating, by our current rules, of 60x50x4, or \$12,000. Suppose a keg of them should turn up! The answer, of course, is that as more of a variety appear the Basal value falls automatically.

It is in Penny Whimsy that Sheldon calls this variety "The aristocrat". The Basal value for the S15 has been increased to \$50 and Sheldon has to work out a new trial set of Basal values which were calculated to reflect the progress of inflation at that time. These ten new rules gave a premium to coins depending on their position in the CC and if they graded MS 60 or better. In 1958 only the S79 with four examples known by Sheldon was a rarer collectable variety than the S15. Now there are eight known S79s. The S79 was given a Basal value of \$20. By 1958 there had been eleven auctions of the S15. There were six different S15s in these auctions. Sheldon new of five: the finest known, which as far as I know, has never been in an auction and four that have – A, C, D, F. (see Auction Appearances). He now lists all five in the CC. Sheldon is now the owner of the Wilharm-Hines S15. In Early American Cents he grades it F12. It seems his ownership has improved the grade to F15 by 1958. He does not mention the G6 coin owned by the Cincinnati collector. Apparently he realized his mistake in Early American Cents when he thought this cent and the French cent were two different coins. This cent is now in Floyd Starr's (Philadelphia) collection. The G4 cent sold in an Eastern auction in 1953 was the Roger Cohen S15.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF EARLY UNITED STATES CENTS

1793 – 1814

by Walter Breen

2000

BREEN 22: Dies 14-K

Lowest Curl Heavy
Single Leaf at OF

Sheldon 15

Obverse 14. Lowest lock has a heavier hooked point than other obverses of this type. TY are below ER, which are below LIB. One bead is centered above I and another above T with two beads above R. Low 7. 97 beads.

Reverse K. Differs from the standard pattern having a single outer leaf at OF, rather than the normal triple leaf. The leaf at ME leans out, pointing to M, and is close to its right base. **Single berry left of the bow**, as on two rare reverse dies of 1794. Right ribbon end is pointed. Only 85 beads.

Die states. Obverse as variety **19**, state I; the bulge from the rim to lowest curl is very Faint. Reverse as variety **21**, state III.

The Encyclopedia includes the most complete listing of pedigrees ever done. All of this information comes from Del Bland, who has done more work on pedigrees than anyone else in the history of coin collecting. However, the book lists an AG-3 S15 as belonging to Richard W. Moore. This coin never existed. Dick Moore was a friend of mine from Long Island who died in January 2011. Dave Palmer, Dick, and myself used to drive together to coin shows from Baltimore to Boston. I asked Dick about his S15 several times. He always told me he got it from someone in Colorado, but that was as much information as I ever got. I never got to see it either. Under equivalents this variety is called Doughty 16. It is apparent that Doughty's 16, which has the J reverse, was confused with Doughty's 17 which has the K reverse.

UNITED STATES LARGE CENTS

1793 – 1794

WILLIAM C. NOYES

2006

S15 DOTTED I/HIGH CENTER REVESE R7- (Crosby 14K) (Doughty 16)

OBVERSE: 14 (16,15) On this die, a bead perfectly dots the I of LIBERTY and this is the best distinguishing characteristic. The end of the staff is long, points directly at a bead, and is distant from the bust a little more than its own thickness. The lowest lock of hair has a short, heavy hook at the end, as contrasted with its delicate termination on the other two obverses. The border contains 97 beads. Always seen with a crack from rim to right arm of Y to forehead, continuing across head to ear and probably would bisect on a mint state coin if one existed because it appears again from the lower curl to the rim.

C. Die lightly lapped especially noticeable in weakened tops of L R.

REVERSE: K (12,15) This reverse can be recognized at a glance, as the central part is raised or elevated, so ONE CENT, a considerable part of the left wreath, and some of the inner leaves of the right wreath are always weak. If the coin is a little worn, these parts are in many instances entirely gone. A leaf terminates 0.5 mm. from the right foot of the M, and points directly at the center of the bottom of that letter. On the L reverse this leaf is distant from the M, is almost parallel to that letter, and points to the bottom of the adjacent A. The two lower leaves on the left of the knot are broad and single, the lower one arising directly from the ribbon without a stem. Under O in OF there is a single leaf. The border has eighty-five beads.

B. Perfect but heavy bulging through ONE CENT.

Noyes copied Sheldon's descriptions almost word for word, which makes sense because he uses Sheldon's numbers. However, he does not agree with Sheldon's grade of the finest known S15. Sheldon graded it VF20 and Noyes calls it F12. The great things about this book are the pictures of 11 out of the 12 known examples, but the pedigree information is not as complete as it is in the Encyclopedia of Early U. S. Cents. Noyes also copied the Encyclopedia by stating that this variety was Doughty 16. This is Doughty 17.

Auction Appearances of the S15

1	6/14/1880	W.T. Curtis	Woodward	Lot 18	\$5.50	
2	6/27/1883	S.S. Crosby	Haseltine	Lot 1490	\$4.00	A
3	4/16/1897	M.A. Brown	Chapman Bros.	Lot 1033	\$2.75	B
4	12/12/1906	J.S. Bryant	Low	Lot 116	\$11.00	C
5	11/3/1911	W.B. Guy	H. Chapman	Lot 350	\$42.50	D
6a	5/12/1915	Thompson & Ely	H. Chapman	Lot 1177	\$7.25	E
6b	5/12/1915	Thompson & Ely	H. Chapman	Lot 1178	\$2.00	B
7	10/30/1917	C.A. Carlberg	Mehl	Lot 265	\$87.50	C
8	2/15/1921	Dr. Wilharm	Mehl	Lot 1321	\$174	C
9	FPL 1929	Dr. French	Mehl	Lot 17	\$225	D
10	3/15/1938	388th Sale	Morganthau	Lot 384	\$30	F
11	10/23/1953	R. Cohen	New Netherlands	Lot 193	\$310	F
12	6/17/1960	June Sale	Stacks	Lot 12	\$1,400	G
13	10/11/1961	E. Schwartz	Kosoff	Lot 17 / PL	\$4,200	* H
14	6/29/1963	250th Sale	Hollinbeck Kagin	Lot 349	\$8,250	* H
15	2/22/1965	256th Sale	Hollinbeck Kagin	Lot 154	\$1,750	* I
16	1/10/1973	299th Sale	Hollinbeck Kagin	Lot 234	\$315	I
17	2/4/1976	TAD	Stacks	Lot 10 / PL	\$2,300	G
18	6/13/1984	F. Starr	Stacks	Lot 23 / PL	\$10,450	D
19	2/1/1986	P. Van Cleave	Kagin	Lot 5017 / PL	\$7,700	A
20	9/30/1986	R. Brown	Superior	Lot 21 / PL	\$6,325	H
21	1/29/1989	J. Robinson	Superior	Lot 20 / PL	\$13,750	D
22	10/6/1991	G.L. Kuntz	Superior	Lot 18 / PL	\$13,750	G
23	2/2/1992	R. Cohen	Superior	Lot 648 / PL	\$13,750	F
24	1/27/1996	R. Brown	Superior	Lot 20 / PL	\$9,350	I
25	2/17/2001	J.R. Frankenfield	Superior	Lot 206 / PL	\$41,400	G
26	1/13/2005	W. Rasmussen	Heritage	Lot 3018 / PL	\$43,700	G
27	1/24/2006	J. Reiver	Heritage	Lot 19171 / PL	\$25,300	B
28	9/6/2009	D. Holmes	Goldberg	Lot 26 / PL	\$52,900	D

* Bought In

<u>Auction</u>	<u>Coin</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Noyes #</u>
2,19	A	Good	28458
3,6b,27	B	Fair	26659
4,7,8	C	Fine	20473
5,9,18,21,28	D	V. Good	20341
6a	E	Good	27189
10,11,23	F	Good	29895
12,17,22,25,26	G	V. Good	24164
13,14,20	H	V. Good	25175
15,16,24	I	Fair	28331



G 5 – Noyes 28458, 13.2 grams

Ex: Jim Neiswinter

Ex: Kagin Auction, 2/1986, Phil Van Cleave, Lot 5017 (\$7,700)

Ex: Phil Van Cleave, 6/1977 (\$4,000)

Ex: Dorothy Paschal, 1/1969

Ex: American Numismatic Society, 1/1947

Ex: George Clapp, 4/1924 (\$65)

Ex: Charles Clapp

Ex: John Haseltine Auction 6/1883, Sylvester Crosby, Lot 1490 (\$4.00)

This is the discovery coin for this variety. Sylvester Crosby discovered it circa 1868. Both the obverse (12) and reverse (K) are pictured on Joseph Levick's plate of 1793 cents that appeared in the April 1869 number of the American Journal of Numismatics. This was the first and is still the most famous photographic plate of coins ever taken in this country. Since this variety was unique in 1869 (as was the 6D Strawberry Leaf), Sylvester Crosby had to make electrotypes so both sides of each coin could be exhibited. In comparing this cent to its images on the plate, I'm sure the reverse is the actual coin, while the obverse is the electrotypes. I have seen two catalogues of the 1883 Crosby sale with buyer's names next to each lot. The letter H was next to lot 1490 in both of them. In February 2005 Dave Bowers wrote an article for Stacks Rare

Coin Review about Colonel James W. Ellsworth. Starting in the 19th century Ellsworth put together one of the finest numismatic collections ever. However, he kept a very low profile. In doing so, Bowers wrote that Ellsworth used the pseudonym “Hercules” when bidding at auctions. So did the H in the catalogue stand for Hercules or Haseltine? Del Bland believes that it stood for Haseltine, who either bid on the cent for Ellsworth or sold it to him later. At the time of the Crosby auction, Ellsworth was 33, lived in Chicago and the auction took place in New York City. In March 1923 Ellsworth sold his collection to Wayte Raymond and John Work Garrett for \$100,000. Raymond then sold Ellsworth’s fine collection of cents to Charles Clapp. Was this S15 part of the Ellsworth collection? I can’t say positively that it was, but I think it’s a good possibility. If this were true it would fill in the 40-year gap in the pedigree. Charles Clapp was a New York City stockbroker who experienced financial problems soon after acquiring the Ellsworth cents. He was forced to sell his large cents to his brother in 1924. George Clapp paid Charles \$65 for this S15. In 1947, the George Clapp collection of large cents was donated to the American Numismatic Society. In September 1968 ANS curator Henry Grunthal wrote a letter to Dorothy Paschal (Dr. Sheldon’s good “friend”) about acquiring one of the duplicate cents in her collection. It seems one of the ANS cents had “mysteriously disappeared”. In January 1969 the ANS traded their second S15 (the Crosby discovery cent) to Paschal for her 1800 Sheldon NC2. As Del Bland wrote in describing this S15 in the Van Cleave sale: “one of the few legitimate trades ever recorded with the ANS”. John Adams helped broker the sale of this cent to Phil Van Cleave on June 1, 1977. See APPENDIX C 1-4.